

QA-295

Andrew Wilson's Potato House

late 19th century

Pond Town vicinity

Private

This square frame building with pyramidal roof and central chimney was constructed in the late 19th century and used to store potatoes. Owned and operated for many years by Andrew Wilson, the building is divided into approximately two dozen stalls or bins on the main floor with additional storage space in the cellar and loft. Local farmers rented space in the storehouse, stored potatoes here in the winter, and then sold them when the market was favorable. A wood stove in the cellar kept the potatoes from freezing in the winter.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Andrew Wilson's Potato House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side of Pine Tree Road approx. 1/4 mile north of Pondtown Road

CITY, TOWN

Crumpton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS☒ ACCESSIBLE☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Samuel G. Wilson (Life Estate)

Then Eliz. Hickman and Irvin Ashley
Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Box 86-A

CITY, TOWN

Goldsboro

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21636

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 67

Folio #: 78

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-295

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the east side of Pine Tree Road about one-quarter mile north of Pondtown Road, the Wilson family potato house is a square frame building with plain weatherboard siding and a pyramidal roof. The apex of the roof is pierced by a stucco chimney, and ranged around the roof just below the apex are four shed roof dormer windows, one on each section of the roof.

The main floor of the building is lighted by a single six-light window in the center of each facade except the east or main facade. A batten door in the center of this wall allows access to the interior. Three four-light windows pierce the poured concrete foundation at ground level and provide light for the cellar.

The interior consists of the main floor, a full cellar, and a loft. The main floor and the cellar are divided up into rows of bins, in which the potatoes were stored. The bins are ranged in two double rows on either side of a central aisle. There are six bins in each row, or a total of 24 on each floor. A narrow secondary aisle circles each floor, allowing access to the outer rows of bins.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

A steep ladder-stair descends to one side of the central aisle, allowing access to the cellar. A moveable ladder stored at the west end of the building was used to reach the loft.

A brick stove chimney rising just to the south of the central aisle serviced two wood stoves in the cellar, allowing a low heat to be maintained during cold weather to prevent freezing. This chimney corbels over in the loft and rises through the apex of the roof.

Both the main floor and the loft are plastered on the inside. It is not clear whether the loft was used to store potatoes or for some other purpose.

In overall appearance, the building seems to have been constructed in the late 19th or early 20th century. Both the framing and the siding show random use of a mixture of machine nails and wire nails, suggesting that the building was constructed during the 1880's or 1890's, during that period of transition between traditional machine nails and newly developed wire nails.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to local tradition, the potato house was owned and operated by Mr. Andrew Wilson, now deceased. Mr. Wilson rented space in the potato house to local farmers for a set price per bushel. Prices quoted ranged from 2¢ to 5¢ per bushel. According to Andrew's son, Sam Wilson (age 82), the potatoes stored there were largely used for sale rather than personal use. The renters would remove the potatoes over the course of the winter, selling them as demand allowed. He was uncertain when the building was constructed, or who the builder was, but believes the building was there before he was born. When questioned about the possible existence of other similar buildings, he pointed out a small, 20th century shed with a brick chimney on the adjoining farm which was also used to store potatoes, though it was smaller and newer than his father's.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

7/5/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

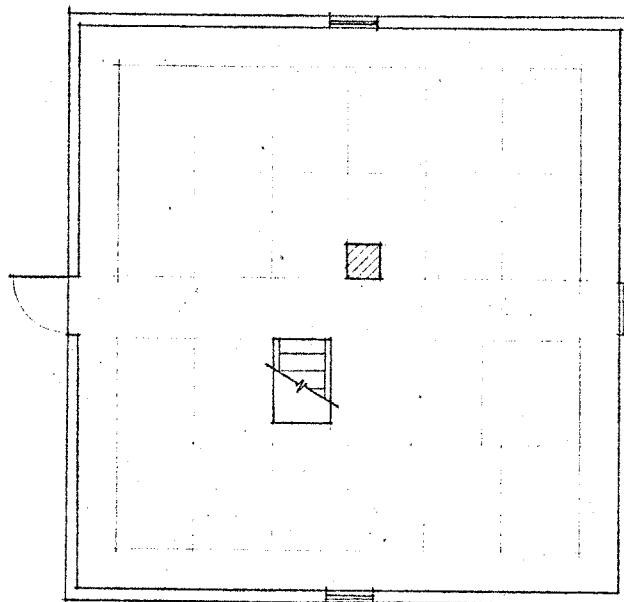
STATE

Maryland 21617

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



0 2 4 6 8 10
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



ORLANDO RIDOUT V.

QA-295 WILSON POTATO STOREHOUSE
CRUMPTON, MARYLAND

JUNE 1, 1978





QA-295 Wilson Potato House
Pondtown vicinity, Md.
Orlando Ridout V, 1978 (MHT)
East elevation, camera facing west



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